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For Immediate Release: December 11, 1985

Release No. 85-268

EPA ANNOUNCES FURTHER STUDY AT NALCO CHEMICAL PLANT

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region V today announced additional studies at the Nalco Chemical Plant, 6216 West 66th Pl., Bedford Park, IL, to further define the extent of dioxin contamination on the property.

The contamination was discovered through routine soil sampling conducted as part of EPA's National Dioxin Study. The follow-up study will be conducted by the EPA with the cooperation of Nalco.

Thirteen samples were taken in July 1985 at various locations on the property. Results show that two of the samples contained 2,3,7,8-tetrachloro-dibenzo-p-dioxin, a type of dioxin more commonly known as 2,3,7,8-TCDD. Levels of 1.9 part per billion (ppb) and 2.2 ppb were found near loading areas on the plant site, away from any residential areas.

Additional samples have been taken near and around the two areas where the dioxin was found, as well as near the perimeter of the plant site. The samples will be analyzed by an approved EPA laboratory and are expected back in approximately two months. Based upon the retesting, EPA will make a decision regarding any additional actions.

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